REMARKS

Applicants certainly appreciate the examiner's allowance of claims 8-12 and 19-21. Applicants noticed a misspelled word in claim 21 and requests approval to amend that claim. Applicants also appreciate the indication of allowance of claims 3 and 4, if amended to become independent, incorporating the requirements of the parent claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have not amended these claims, however, as applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicants believe that the examiner may be misconstruing part of the Beckman reference, US 5,306,976. In the office action of December 13, 2004, the examiner stated on page 3, third line from the bottom that slot liner tube 302 of Beckman has ends 311A-B that overlap and are *bonded together*. Applicants submit that flaps 311A-B are not bonded together. Flaps 311A and B are discussed particularly at column 5, lines 61 to column 6, line 19. Slots 204 (Figure 2) have access openings 216 that lead to the central bore. Windings are wrapped around the individual teeth 201A, 201B by passing each wrap through access opening 216 into slot 204. Flaps 311A and B deflect as each wrap is pushed through opening 216 to allow the winding to be inserted through opening 216 into slot 204. Once each wire wrap has been inserted into slot 204, flaps 311A-B return to their non-deflective position. The dotted lines of Figure 3 illustrate this flexing movement of flaps 311A, 311B.

If flaps 311A-B were bonded together, the wire wraps could not be inserted through access openings 216. Bonding flaps 311A-B would destroy the teachings of the patent, which is to insert each wire wrap through openings 216 into slots 204. If the windings can't be inserted through openings 216, they would have to be threaded from one end of the motor to the other. Column 1, lines 42-43 mention that the motor is made in a high volume machine production

process, and threading each winding may likely not be possible with high volume production. Consequently, although slot liner 302 forms a tube, it does not have a sealed outer margin because the overlap of flexible flaps 311A and 311B does not form a seal.

Applicants' claim 1 requires that each of the tubes define a sealed outer margin. In applicants' preferred embodiment, the wires are threaded through the slots from one end of the stack of laminations to the other. The motors are often quite long, up to thirty feet or more, thus threading is utilized rather than inserting the windings laterally through access openings into the slots. In the preferred embodiment, the laminations have no access openings leading to the slots. While threading the wires from one end of the motor to the other is not new, utilizing a sealed tube dielectric liner is new.

Tsubokawa and Beckman both rely on inserting the windings through openings from the central bore into the slots, thus utilizing a tube with a sealed margin in either reference would destroy the ability to wind these motors in that fashion. Applicants therefore respectfully request the examiner to reconsider and to approve claims 1-2 and 5-7.

Respectfully submitted,

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